

GERMAN SUBMARINE IS REPORTED SEEN OFF MAINE COAST

And It Is Officially Announced That Naval Authorities Are Investigating the Supposed Enemy Ship—The Reports Come from Various Sources

U-BOAT SEEN RUNNING AWASH OFF MACHIAS

Then Lobster Fishermen Came in with Story That They Had Sighted the Object off the Mouth of the Kennebec River—Coast Guard at Cross Island Also Report Suspicion

Portland, Me., May 22.—It was officially announced to-day that the reported presence of a submarine off the Maine coast is being investigated by the naval authorities. Patrol scrutiny of these waters was ordered following a report to naval stations that a periscope was sighted late yesterday afternoon and that at 6 o'clock last night a submarine was seen running awash off Machias.

On the heels of these reports came word to-day from three lobster fishermen that they had sighted from two different points what they believed to be a German submarine off the mouth of the Kennebec about 9:15 this morning. The fishermen reported the matter to Poplar station and when the news was communicated to a naval officer he furnished the Machias end of the story and confirmed the press reports that an investigation was under way.

It was learned unofficially that the coast guard at Cross Island sighted the supposed submarine and watched it for five minutes, when it submerged.

Persistent reports have been current since the war was declared that a German submarine was in New England waters, but not until to-day were they given official recognition. The supposed submarine, as described by fishermen, appeared to be about 200 feet in length.

The object was sighted south of Sciguin light, a position which would fit with her probable position if she continued in her westerly course after being sighted off Cross Island last night. Two members of the coast guard at the island watched the vessel for an hour under favorable weather conditions and are convinced that she was a submarine.

REPORTED TO WASHINGTON

That Presence of Submarine Was Not Officially Confirmed.

Washington, D. C., May 22.—The naval commander of the Maine district has forwarded reports of a German submarine in that vicinity, which he said were so far without confirmation. The investigation is continuing.

ITALY'S WAR MISSION NOW IN AMERICA

It Is Headed By Prince Udine, First Cousin of King Victor Emmanuel—Mission Coming for Object of Courtesy.

Washington, D. C., May 22.—The Italian war commission, headed by Prince Udine, first cousin to King Victor Emmanuel, will arrive in Washington on Wednesday at an hour to be announced later. The fact that the commission has landed safely on the continent became known officially yesterday through the state department. One of its members, Enrico Arlotto, minister of transportation in the Italian cabinet, already is here and has had preliminary conferences with government officials.

The mission is coming on a visit of courtesy and to discuss with American officials particularly co-operation in dealing with shipping and food problems and the adjustment of rates of exchange.

Its personnel follows: Prince Ferdinando Di Savoia, of Udine; Enrico Arlotto, minister of transportation; Marquis Luigi Borsarelli Di Riffredo, under secretary of state for foreign affairs; Guglielmo Marconi, senator; Augusto Chiffelli, deputy foreign minister of public works; Francesco Saverio Nitti, deputy, former minister of agriculture.

ATTEMPT ON LIFE OF WAR MINISTER AT PETROGRAD

Despatch to Jewish Paper in New York Said Official Escaped and Plotters Were Arrested.

New York, May 22.—The Jewish Daily Forward received a cablegram from Petrograd, saying that an unsuccessful attempt was made to-day to assassinate War Minister Kerensky. The despatch read: "Attempt on the life of Kerensky made just now. Kerensky escaped. All the participants arrested. Rumors plot arranged by supporters of old regime."

GERMANS FAIL TO RECOUP LOSS

French Hold All Gains Made on the Champagne Front

1,000 PRISONERS WERE TAKEN MONDAY

Three Separate Counter-Attacks Were Made by the Germans

Paris, May 22.—Three separate counter-attacks by the Germans on positions captured yesterday by the French were repulsed last night, it was officially announced to-day. One thousand prisoners were taken by the French yesterday.

The official statement issued last night was as follows: "The day was comparatively calm. The artillery actions were intermittent over the greater part of the front except in Champagne where the enemy violently bombarded the positions we occupied yesterday in the region south of Moronvillers. There was no infantry action."

"On the night of May 19-20 our airplanes dropped 2200 kilos of explosives on railroad stations and bivouacs in the region of Epoye and Betheniville. On May 20 the aviation ground at Habsheim and bivouacs at Pont-Faverger and Betheniville were likewise bombarded with numerous projectiles."

"The same day two German airplanes were brought down by our pilots and a third by the fire of our special guns. Three other enemy machines were compelled to make a landing, having been seriously damaged."

WANT SEPARATION.

Finland's Wealthiest Classes Want to Quit Russia.

Helsingfors, Finland, May 21, via Petrograd and London, May 22.—The congress of the Swedish political party representing a majority of Finland's wealthiest and most influential classes yesterday passed a resolution favoring complete separation of the grand duchy of Finland from Russia.

FEDERAL CONTROL OF COAL

Is Proposed By the Federal Trade Commission.

Washington, D. C., May 22.—Government regulation of the coal industry including the fixing of prices was proposed by the federal trade commission yesterday in a report to Congress charging producers and brokers with exacting exorbitant profits and hampering the present coal shortage at consumption points on inadequate transportation facilities.

"The price of bituminous coal, which is a necessity, should be fixed," said the report, "according to the same general principle which has been established in the conduct of public utilities. At a time like the present excessive profits should not be permitted to be extorted from the public by producers and distributors of any prime necessity of life."

In line with the trade commission's statements concerning transportation, the supreme court handed down a decision yesterday upholding the power of the interstate commerce commission to compel railroads to furnish a reasonably adequate supply of coal cars to handle normal and reasonable demands for interstate commerce originating at mines along their lines, and to award reparation to shippers for failure to supply.

In a test case of Illinois coal producers against the Illinois Central, the court reversed a federal court injunction enjoining an order of the commission for investigation of damages to shippers for failure of the railroads to supply cars.

Lack of transportation for coal, the trade commission report says, probably will be remedied by measures being taken by the interstate commerce commission and by the Council of National Defense.

The commission's report said that while there had been an increase in coal production, an unprecedented demand during the last six months not only absorbed the coal as fast as it could be shipped but exhausted the small stocks in storage. The country now faces a serious situation the commission declared, in obtaining a commodity basic to virtually every form of military and industrial activity.

The commission recommended strongly that coal miners be exempted in the army draft and that everything possible be done to urge them to remain at their normal tasks.

Speculating brokers as well as producers were charged with responsibility for increased prices. The producers, the report said, admitted frankly they are taking advantage of the situation to make up for low profits of the last few years.

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3,000 HOMES BURNED AS CONFLAGRATION SWEEP ATLANTA

Dynamite Had to Be Used to Check the Progress of the Flames, and the Loss Is Estimated as Nearly \$5,000,000.

Atlanta, Ga., May 22.—This city went actively to work to-day to care for the destitute people from the 3,000 homes destroyed in a fire that raged yesterday afternoon and last night throughout 75 blocks and was stopped only by the dynamiting of beautiful homes on Ponce de Leon avenue. Estimates of property loss ran as high as \$5,000,000.

Only one person is known to be dead, a woman, who died of the shock after her home had been destroyed. Injuries were remarkably few.

The fire started in a warehouse and burned many negro homes and costly residences of white people, as well as many business structures.

The fire was confined to the northeastern part of the city and the only business houses burned were several warehouses near Decatur and Fort streets, the point of origin.

A high wind carried the flames northward. Within an hour after the first alarm, a blaze began to assume the proportions of a conflagration and fire officials called in several hundred men from the Fort McPherson officers training camp to aid in the fighting. Appeals for help also brought fire departments from a half dozen neighboring cities.

The struggle with the flames reached a climax at night fall, when the fire fighters made a stand at Boulevard place and began dynamiting a wide area to protect the Ponce de Leon section. The effort was only partially successful, and an hour later the dynamiters had to begin their work over again two blocks beyond the avenue.

The fire started in a storage house on Decatur street, just east of Fort street, burned several blocks of small houses clean, jumped over five low brick buildings and a row of small shacks and then swept on unobstructed into the better residence sections. A large part of the devastation, however, was in the neighborhoods composed of homes ranging in value from \$2,500 to \$6,000.

Some of the most serious losses were in the section where dynamite was used, scores of pretty homes in a comparatively new district of the city being blown up. The dynamiting began at Boulevard place at about 4 o'clock, but the fighters were driven back. Aided by wide Ponce de Leon avenue and the slowly dying wind, soldiers, firemen and private citizens blew up whole blocks of houses. Now and then a home on the north side of the avenue would catch fire, but for almost two hours these outbreaks were stopped. Then the flames gained a foothold across the street, swept on a block to Veda Way, and later moved slowly to the northeast.

Virtually the entire section bounded by Hillard street on the west, Prospect place on the east, Edgewood avenue on the south, and North avenue on the north was laid low. The fire never got nearer Peachtree street, the main thoroughfare of the city, than seven blocks, although at times a momentary change of wind threatened in that direction.

Firemen had been fighting a small blaze in the big Atlanta cotton warehouse, where military supplies are stored, and at the same time six residences in West end were burning when the alarm came in from Decatur street.

The blaze started in the Skinner Storage company's plant, which is almost surrounded by the main thoroughfare of the city, and the wind caused great alarm in sections that afterwards proved safe and for blocks on all sides of the area of destruction household goods were piled in every open place. These were guarded in most cases by national guardsmen, who also were pressed into all kinds of work.

Several hundred buckets were rushed to Ponce de Leon avenue when the fight centered there. Each soldier was supplied with one and whenever a fire broke started on a roof it was quickly extinguished.

The fire had swept only a few blocks before relief measures on a large scale were undertaken by the Red Cross and the Associated Charities, who joined forces. Other societies and hundreds of individuals volunteered for the work.

Food was provided at the army for 5000 people. Army trucks, ambulances and private automobiles were pressed into service to handle the foodstuffs, the relief workers announcing they were "going to feed everybody who is hungry."

At the army small cots also were provided. Among the refugees cared for were a hundred small children from the Home for the Friendless.

Mayor Candler issued a statement saying outside offers of help would be unnecessary. He said also that he had fully investigated the reports that the fire was of incendiary origin, and found that "there is nothing whatever to support the theory."

The small number of casualties reported was regarded as most unusual. Only about 60 persons had been accounted for as having been taken to hospitals. One death was reported—that of Miss Bessie Bridges, who died of shock. Many of those taken to hospitals were suffering from shock, from heat prostrations or minor injuries.

NEGRO MURDERER WAS BURNED TO DEATH BY MOB

El Persons, Who Killed Woman at Memphis, Tenn., Was Soaked in Oil, Suspended from a Tree, and Then Fired.

Memphis, Tenn., May 22.—El Persons, a negro who confessed the murder of Antoinette Rappal, was burned to death near the scene of the crime to-day in the presence of a mob of 2,000 to 3,000 people. The body was soaked in oil and suspended from the limb of a tree. A torch was then applied, and the body burned fiercely until the scorched flesh fell to the ground.

In his confession Persons implicated two other negroes in the murder of the child and the mob set out to find them. A short time later word was received that they had been captured. DeWitt Ford, a white man, and one of the two negroes were on the way with him to the scene of the first lynching.

BRAZIL MAY DECLARE WAR

President Recommends Revocation of Decree of Neutrality

INTIMATES PURPOSE TO JOIN WITH U. S.

Brazilian Congress Is Expected to Carry Out Recommendation

Rio Janeiro, May 22.—The president of Brazil has sent a message to Congress recommending the revocation of the decree of neutrality in the war between the United States and Germany. Congress is expected to accept the recommendation by a large majority.

The message declared that the order to the Brazilian authorities enjoining the observance of neutrality was only intended to have effect until Congress met. It continues: "To-day, in consideration of the fact that the United States is an integral part of the American union, in consideration, also, of the traditional policy of Brazil, which has always been governed by complete unity of view with the United States and, finally, in consideration of the sympathies of the great majority of the Brazilian nation, the administration invites Congress to revoke the decree of neutrality."

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CABOT SEES DIVORCE.

From Woman He Met Through Matrimonial Agency Efforts.

Married ten years ago through the agency of a matrimonial bureau, Albert W. Noyes, aged 68 years, a Cabot farmer, is the petitioner in a contested divorce case which was commenced to-day in Washington county court before Judge Wilson and the associate judges. The wife is 38 years younger than her husband, and they have a four-years-old daughter, the custody of which is sought by the father.

Before the petitioner took the stand to testify, ten witnesses were sworn, but the petitioner requested that he be excused from taking the customary oath. As a result the clerk substituted: "You solemnly affirm," instead of "You solemnly swear," and finished with, "under pain and penalty for perjury," instead of "so help you God."

Mr. Noyes testified that he secured the name of his present wife by reading a matrimonial paper which was sent him. Correspondence resulted, and the marriage in Calais followed, the ceremony being performed in 1907.

He admitted that his wife had always been a hard worker and an economical housewife, but said that she tormented and scolded him. The witness said he "never talked back," because he did not believe in such quarrels.

Mrs. Noyes left him last November, taking their child with her, and went to Pawtucket, R. I., where she lived with Mr. Carrigan, he said. She drew \$50 from a Hardwick bank before she left.

Mr. Noyes said he went to see his wife Dec. 10, in an endeavor to persuade her to return to Cabot and resume their marriage relations. She told him that she would never come back and that he would never see their little girl again. The witness testified that her refusal affected him so much that he cried. He wanted the child and was willing even to drop the divorce proceedings if she would return home with him.

He told the court that his wife used to torment him by saying that the child would never go to his funeral, and she said on one occasion that if he should die to-morrow she wouldn't go to his funeral.

J. Ward Carver represents the petitioner, and Fred L. Laird the defendant.

24 POSITIVE CASES. Of Smallpox in Vermont, Says State Board of Health.

Burlington, May 22.—There are at present 24 positive cases of smallpox in the state and one suspected case. All of the cases are traced to Mrs. Gertrude Hine of Belvidere, who exposed many people while traveling from New London, Conn., to her home and who was taken from the train at Essex Junction on April 12.

The first eight or nine cases which developed in the state following the journey of Mrs. Hine, who was well along with the disease when detected, were due to direct exposure, the victims being either passengers on the train or in the station at Essex Junction, where she was taken from the train after having traveled from New London. The cases discovered in Calais, 14 or 15 in number, and in Braintree, two and possibly three, were diagnosed by Dr. H. A. Ladd of the state laboratory on Friday. The cases in Calais are among school children and are traced to their teacher, who was on the train with Mrs. Hine.

The cases in the state thus far discovered are 14 or 15 in Calais, two in Essex Center, one in Underhill, one in Berlin, two in Northfield, two positive cases suspected in Braintree and two in Belvidere. All of the cases are light, no one yet having succumbed to the disease. All of the cases are among those who have never been vaccinated, and the health department of the state is urging vaccination.

SMALLPOX IN BRAINTREE. Several Cases Have Developed from Teacher, Miss Batchelder.

Randolph, May 22.—Several cases of smallpox have developed in Braintree, only a few miles from here, and the outbreak is causing great anxiety in the vicinity. A teacher, Miss Batchelder, went to her home in that place, not knowing what her disease was and several persons who came to visit her and who met her otherwise were exposed to the disease. A quarantine has been placed upon many there, and a general vaccination of all who in any way came in contact with the disease has been ordered, so it is hoped the disease will not go any further.

PUT UNDER QUARANTINE. Supt. Butterfield May Have Been Exposed to Smallpox.

Cabot, May 22.—Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Butterfield went to their home in North Montpelier Saturday afternoon for a three weeks' stay under a quarantine for smallpox. Mr. Butterfield visited a school at North Calais where some children were taken ill with what has been pronounced smallpox.

One Case at Middlesex. Middlesex, May 22.—John Nichols is ill with smallpox.

WAS 92 YEARS OLD. Mrs. Sophronia Brown of Washington Died Yesterday.

Mrs. Sophronia Brown died at the home of her son, E. F. Brown, in Washington yesterday of a general breakdown, due to old age, she being 92 years and five months old. Her illness dated from May 11. Mrs. Brown was the second oldest person in town and had been a lifelong resident, living at the farm where she died the past 52 years.

She leaves three children, two sons and a daughter, C. H. Brown, E. F. Brown, with whom she made her home, and Mrs. Stella Day of Barre. The funeral will be held at her late home Wednesday at 12:30 o'clock, with interment in the village cemetery at Washington beside her husband, who died 52 years ago.

Office Transferred to Montpelier. Adj. Gen. Lee S. Thilston, by command of Gov. Graham, announces the removal of the office of adjutant general of Vermont from St. Albans to Montpelier and that all communications intended for that office should be addressed to Montpelier.

The patriotic rally which was to have been held at the Cobble Hill Grange hall this evening has been postponed on account of the bad weather and the date will be announced later.

RALLY POSTPONED. Will Be Held at Cobble Hill Grange at Date to Be Announced.

The patriotic rally which was to have been held at the Cobble Hill Grange hall this evening has been postponed on account of the bad weather and the date will be announced later.

SACRIFICED LIFE IN VAIN

Mrs. Harry Silloway Tried to Save Her Daughter, Helen, at Wolcott

WHEN THE LATTER FELL INTO RIVER

The Bodies Were Recovered Shortly After Drowning

Morrisville, May 22.—Mrs. Harry Silloway, aged 20, who drowned in the Lamolite river at Wolcott to-day, the former sacrificing herself in a vain effort to save her daughter. The bodies of the two women were recovered later in the forenoon, the alarm having been given by Mrs. Silloway's five-year-old son, Arthur, who was fishing with them from the bank near the bridge. The double drowning occurred at 9:30 o'clock.

When the younger woman slipped into the rescue and she herself fell into the river Mrs. Silloway bravely went to deep water. Both the women struggled frantically. The little Arthur rushed for help. H. C. Reed was called to the scene in getting out the body of Miss Silloway near the place where the girl had fallen in. Meanwhile other help arrived and the body of the mother was taken from the river at a point about 50 rods downstream.

The surviving members of the family are the husband and father and three children, a girl who is a student in People's academy in this place, and two boys, Arthur and Paul. The double drowning has cast a gloom over Wolcott, where the family is well known.

MOST PECULIAR ACCIDENT. Secretary Daniels Explains Details of Two Nurses.

Washington, D. C., May 22.—A brass attachment of the powder charge striking the water and boomeranging back nearly 200 feet after the firing of a gun in target practice, killed Mrs. Edith Ayres and Miss Helen Burnett Wood, Red Cross nurses of Chicago, who lost their lives Sunday aboard the American steamship Mongolia.

Secretary Daniels explained in a statement last night that such an accident had never occurred before and that ordnance experts are puzzled. His statement described the accident as follows: "When about 100 miles to sea, in accordance with the usual procedure, guns were fired to test mounts and ammunition and to practice the navy crew in their use. The guns were fired six-inch caliber, for which the shell and powder are loaded separately into the gun. The powder charge is contained in a brass case and there held in place by a pasteboard wall, distance pieces and a brass mount-cap that fit closely, thus making a moisture-tight joint in order that the powder may also give the velocity and pressure intended. When the gun is fired, this brass cap is propelled some distance some times whole and some times in pieces, but also in front of the gun."

"Several nurses who were watching the firing were sitting on the promenade deck some 175 feet abaft and ten feet above the gun. On the third shot the brass mount cap struck the water peculiarly, boomeranged directly back to the ship, struck the stanchion near where the nurses were sitting and broke. Its pieces instantly killed Mrs. Ayres and Miss Wood. The firing was stopped at once and the vessel returned to port to land the bodies."

"An investigation has been ordered and its results will enable the department to fully ascertain the cause and provide the remedies to prevent a possible recurrence of the accident."

LINER WRECKED. The Colonial Was Lost Off the English Coast.

Boston, May 22.—The Leyland liner Colonial was wrecked Sunday night on the south coast of England, according to a cablegram received yesterday by John H. Butters, agent of the line here. The message said that the steamer, which was carrying a cargo of munitions, grain, lumber and cotton from this port, probably would be a total loss. The cause of the accident and the fate of the crew were not mentioned.

Reports reached here that the Colonial had lost her bearings, and that the wreck was due to a mishap not connected with the perils of war. The fact that the English coast is not lighted was referred to in this connection. Mariners commented on the fact that the Colonial, formerly a crack boat in the New Orleans service to England, had not missed a trip since she was turned into the service from Boston early in the war, notwithstanding the menace of mines and submarines. The steamer, with her cargo, was valued at \$2,000,000. It was considered probable that the Colonial had part of her cargo, including munitions, at Plymouth, before the accident, which occurred probably while she was bound for London.

The Colonial, a steamer of 6,440 tons registered, was built at Newcastle in 1901. She was commanded by Capt. John McDonald.

PROMINENT CITIZEN. Samuel E. Meekin of Middlebury Died of Apoplexy.

Middlebury, May 22.—Samuel E. Meekin, aged 71, one of Middlebury's most prominent business men, who was stricken with apoplexy Sunday, died at his home here yesterday. He is survived by a wife, two brothers and a sister. The funeral will be Wednesday.

All the banks in the city will close at noon to-morrow (Wednesday) on account of the funeral of Ira C. Calkins, and will remain closed for the rest of the day.